Military Forces and State Police for counter insurgency operations, declaration of major insurgent groups as unlawful association under the Unlawful activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Regular review of the situation both at State and Central Government level is being made. The Government has also given thrust on speedy economic development and generation of employment opportunities in the North Eastern States.

Suspension of Anti-Insurgency Operation against BLTF

4763. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to contain and effectively curb insurgency in the North-East, Government had lately decided to suspend anti-insurgency operations against the Bodo Liberation Tigres;

(b) if so, what steps have since been taken to arrive at a truce with Bodos and other militant outfits active in the North-East; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) has suspended its operations against the Army, Para-Military Forces and State Police. Government has decided to suspend operations against the BLT following a statement of Union Home Minister in both the houses of Parliament on March 15, 2000.

(b) and (c) Government has extended an invitation to all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness to come forward for talks within the four corners of our Constitution. Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) has come forward for peace talks abjuring the path of violence. Other militant outfits have not responded for talks within the parameters indicated.

Anomaly in Pay Scale of CFO

4764. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there exists an anomaly in pay scale of Chief Fire Officer, Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the last fourteen years;

(b) if so, how the anomaly has occurred and what are the anomalies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the A and N Administration has made

specific recommendations to Government to remove the anomaly in pay scale of CFO;

(d) if so, the recommendations of the A and N Administration and the steps taken by Government to remove the anomaly; and

(e) by when the anomaly will be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a)There exists a situation in which the Chief Fire Officer and his immediate subordinate (i.e. Inspector Fire Brigade) under the Andaman and Nicobar Fire Force were placed in the same scale of pay on recommendation of the IVth Pay Commission.

(b) The Fire Service personnel below the rank of Chief Fire Officer under the A&N Administration are governed by Police Act, 1861 and A and N Police Manual, 1963. They also carry the designations as in a Police Department. The Central Fourth Pay Commisssion recommended enhancement of pay scale of all the Fire Service personnel below the rank of Chief Fire Officer at par with corresponding ranks in the Police Department. However, no such enhancement was recommended in the case of Chief Fire Officer.

(c) to (e)Yes, Sir. The A&N administration have recommended grant of a higher scale of pay to the post of Chief Fire Officer. However, a similar situation exists in the pay scale of Assistant Commissioner of Police/ Deputy Superintendent of Police and its feeder cadre of Inspector in various Union Territories. A proposal to enhance the scale of pay of the former category of posts is under consideration of the Government. It has been, therefore, decided to defer consideration of the proposal to upgrade the pay scale of Chief Fire Officer under A and N Administration till the proposal regarding upgradation of the pay scale of Assistant Commissioner of Police/Deputy Superintendent of Police is resolved.

Rehabilitation of Undertrials

4765. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of undertrials in different jails who have already suffered the maximum term of imprisonment provided for the offence charged against but for want of sureties and other support for litigation;

(b) how many of them are women and children;